

there instead of to China again. (for the 4th time) but they are all mad here on Rhododendrons, of which they have already twice as many species (or so-called species) as they can identify or grow in any one garden, but they won't grow on my limy soil, so I shall not end my days in a lunatic asylum on account of them.

"You certainly have got some very live and enterprising men in your Department, and I only wish I could come over again and see more of the results of their work."

The following is quoted from Wilson Popenoe's 1921 Report to the California Avocado Association:

"The incident of outstanding interest during the course of the explorations in Costa Rica was the discovery, by Oton Jiminéz and myself, of a wild avocado on the slopes of the Volcano Irazu. We found it in fruit, but not in flower: hence we have not yet been able to complete the botanical study of the species. But basing my opinion upon the character of the tree and its fruit, I am inclined to believe that we have at last fallen upon the true wild avocado, the prototype of the cultivated Guatemalan race and probably also of the West Indian.

"The fruits of this wild avocado are the size of small oranges, quite round, and dark green in color, the general appearance being similar to that of many Guatemalan varieties. The shell is thick and hard, and the flesh, which is very scanty and of gritty texture, has a strong flavor of anise. We sent seeds of this species (*Persea* sp., S.P.I. No. 50585.) to Washington, and I am informed that about two dozen plants are now growing in the greenhouse there. While this fruit is of little value for eating, the plant will be tested as a stock for better varieties. It is well known that the wild forms of fruits which have under intensive cultivation reached a high state of perfection often make admirable stock-plants, having more vigor than the cultivated varieties."